GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:882
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2009
NATIONAL WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various schemes and agencies involved in the implementation of the National Watershed Development Programme (NWDP);

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the details of the achievements made under NWDP;

(d) whether there is co-ordination amongst various agencies/bodies involved in the implementation of the scheme/programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various Programmes/ Schemes, namely, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soils (RADAS) and Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) with a view to prevent soil erosion and land degradation in the country. These programmes/ schemes are executed by mostly Agriculture/Soil Conservation Departments of the State Governments. Under these programmes, during last three years (2006-07 to 2008-09) an amount of Rs.1839.85 crore was allocated whereas for the current year (2009-10), an amount of Rs.490.48 crore have been allocated. The state-wise and year-wise amount allocated in last three years is given at Annexure -I.

(c): The National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) is presently being implemented in all the States with the main objectives of
(i) conservation, development and sustainable management of natural resources,
(ii) enhancement of agricultural production and productivity in a sustainable manner,
(iii) restoration of ecological balance in the degraded and fragile rainfed eco-systems by greening these areas through appropriate mix of trees, shrubs and grasses,
(iv) reduction in regional disparity between irrigated and rainfed areas and
(v) creation of sustained employment opportunities for the rural community including the landless. NWDPRA has been thoroughly restructured by retaining the technical strength of the earlier programme and incorporating the lessons learnt from successful projects, especially, on community participation.

Under the NWDPRA, since inception upto 2008-09, an amount of Rs.3492.16 crore has been utilized for the development of 99.73 lakh ha. of rainfed areas falling in various States of the country as per State-wise details given in Annexure-II.

(d) & (e): The Ministry of Rural Development has launched Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) during XI Five Year Plan for increasing the productivity of the agricultural land. Under this programme, both rainfed & irrigated agricultural land including the wastelands are taken up for development, whereas, under NWDPRA only rainfed areas are taken for the development on watershed approach basis. With a view to coordinate the Watershed Development Programmes being implemented by various Ministries, National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) has been constituted. The NRAA has published the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects with a fresh framework for the next generation watershed programmes. The Guidelines provide an enabling framework for the planning, design, management and implementation of all watershed development projects with a common approach throughout the country.